

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 were originally filed in this patent application. In response to the first office action dated 03/01/04, an amendment was filed on 06/01/04 that amended claims 1, 4, 6, 7 and 9 and added new claims 13-20. In response to the final office action dated 11/03/04, an RCE and amendment was filed on 01/25/05 that amended claims 1, 4, 6 and 9. In a second response, claims 1, 6, and 9 were amended, and claims 11, 14, 18 and 20 were cancelled. In a third response claim 9 was amended and claim 11 was cancelled. In a fourth response and with a second RCE claims 1-6, and 9 were amended, claims 21-24 have been added, and claim 10 was cancelled. In the pending office action, claims 1, 6-9, 12-13, 15-17, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Hamilton in view of IBM and Novaes. No claim was allowed. In this response, claims 1, 3, 6, 9, 22 and 24 have been amended and claims 2, 21 and 23 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3-9, 12, 13, 15-17, 19, 22 and 24 are currently pending.

REMARKS

Rejection of claims 1, 6-9, 12-13, 15-17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6-9, 12-13, 15-17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Hamilton in view of IBM and Novaes. The claims were amended to incorporate the dependent claims the Examiner indicated were allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 1 was amended to include the limitations of claim 2, claim 2 was cancelled and claim 3 was amended to depend on claim 1. Similarly, claim 6 was amended to include the limitations of claim 21, claim 21 was cancelled and claim 22 was amended to depend on claim 6. Also, claim 9 was amended to include the limitations of claim 23, claim 23 was cancelled and claim 24 was amended to depend on claim 9. Applicant believes the claims are allowable as indicated by the Examiner in the previous office action.

Conclusion

In summary, the cited prior art does not teach, support, or suggest the unique combination of features in applicant's claims presently on file. Therefore, applicant respectfully asserts that all of applicant's claims are allowable. Such allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if this would in any way advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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